Milwaukee Public Schools- Student Discipline Committee "Lesson" Ideas

Topic: Discipline Rights & Suspension Due Process

Overview for facilitator:
This session will introduce/remind students of their rights regarding discipline and what the district policy and processes are for due process with suspensions and appealing a suspension. A discussion will be held around if most students understand their rights, as well as any next steps in the school or district to ensure more students and families understand their rights or if there are any updates needed to due process.

Materials Needed:
Have the Parent/Student Handbook on Rights, Responsibilities and Discipline saved and able to reference or possibly displayed on a SmartBoard/white board. Updated handbook can be found at mpsmke.com/rights or
https://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/en/Families/Education-Resources/Handbooks-Discipline.htm

Have pages specific due process copied for each student (page 21).
Board Policy 8.31:
https://mps.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/MPS-English/OBG/Clerk-Services/MPS-Rules-and-Policies/Administrative-Policies/Chapter-08/Administrative_Policy_08_31.pdf

Intro:
Ask if any student is willing to share an experience of when they were suspended unfairly and if they were able to do anything about it or talk to anyone about it.

Ask if any student knows what due process is when a student is suspended and what documentation must occur and be shared with the student and family any time someone is suspended.

Discussion/Activity:
Have students independently or with a partner read the Due Process Procedures for Suspension (page 21 top half of page) steps 1-9.
Go around and ask any of the following:

- Does anyone have any questions about the steps?
- Do you think most students and families understand these due process steps?
- Are there any steps that could be clearer to students and families?
- What could be done to better share this information with students and families?

Have students independently or with a partner read the Appealing a Suspension and Conference and Reinstatement Following Suspension (bottom half of page) sections.

Go around and ask any of the following:

- Does anyone have any questions about these sections?
- Do you think most students and families know how to appeal a suspension or reinstatement?
- What could be done to better share this information with students and families?

Next steps:
What are any next steps or reflections from the students as a result of the session. These should be captured in the minutes.